

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Forest Department - Diversion of 121.854 hectares of forest land, in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for laying of New Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam reach Broad Gauge Railways line from Km 22.4 to 36.5 / 43 to 43.5 / 47.7 to 47.8 & 80.7 to 84.5 in Reserved Forests of Nellore and Rajampet Divisions - Permission accorded - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 30

Dated:01-05-2013.

Read the following:-

1. From PCCF, A.P, Hyderabad Lr.Rc.No.10120/2008-F1, dated. 17-5-2010.
2. State Govt., Lr. No.3979/For.I(1)/2010, dt. 19-06-2010
3. From GOI, MoEF, New Delhi, Lr. F. No.8-35/2011-FC, Dt.29-06-2011
4. State Govt. letter No. 3979/FOR.I (1)/2010, Dated:22 -05-2012
5. From GOI, MoEF, New Delhi, Lr.F.No.8-35/2011-FC, Dt. 27-12-2012.

ORDER:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad in his letter 1st read above, had submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 121.854 hectares of forest land, in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for laying of New Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam reach Broad Gauge Railways line from Km 22.4 to 36.5 / 43 to 43.5 / 47.7 to 47.8 & 80.7 to 84.5 in Reserved Forests of Nellore and Rajampet Divisions and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for according approval under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The said proposal has been sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for their approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide State Government letter 2nd read above.

3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, in their letter 3rd read above, have accorded their approval in-principle (Stage.I) for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions as stipulated therein.

4. The State Government vide letter 4th read above, have furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests. State Government vide further letters dated. 6-12-2012 have furnished certain additional information as desired by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests.

5. Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, in their letter 5th read above, have accorded their approval (Stage.II) under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 121.854 hectares of forest land, in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for laying of New Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam reach Broad Gauge Railways line from Km 22.4 to 36.5 / 43 to 43.5 / 47.7 to 47.8 & 80.7 to 84.5 in Reserved Forests of Nellore and Rajampet Divisions, subject to certain conditions as stipulated therein.

(Contd---2)

6. Government after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, for diversion of 121.854 hectares of forest land, in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for laying of New Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam reach Broad Gauge Railways line from Km 22.4 to 36.5 / 43 to 43.5 / 47.7 to 47.8 & 80.7 to 84.5 in Reserved Forests of Nellore and Rajampet Divisions, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) Compensatory Afforestation over the degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land being diverted (i.e. $121.854 \times 2 = 243.708$ hectares) shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department from the funds realized from the user agency for this project.
- (iii) The State Government shall charge the additional NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- (iv) The User agency shall obtain Environment clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 issued in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, or the State Environment Impact Assessment authority, as the case may be, if the build up area of construction as per the item 8 (a) of the Schedule to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification is more than 20,000 Sqm. If the build up area of construction is less than 20,000 Sqm., the Environment clearance is not required as on date, as per the provisions of the notification dated.14-09-2006 issued by the MoEF. ”
- (v) After operationalization of the railways line, the State Government through the Chief Wildlife Warden will monitor its effect on the wildlife and will suggest appropriate measures such as restriction on speed of trains plying on the line, and construction of protective fence etc. at identified vulnerable locations to prevent injury and death to the wildlife;
- (vi) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (vii) Felling of trees on the forest land being diverted shall be reduced to the bare minimum and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- (viii) Alternate fuel (i.e. other than fire wood) shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers engaged during construction of railways line to avoid pressure on adjoining forests.
- (ix) The user agency shall ensure that no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area because of this project.
- (x) The project land being diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by using four feet high RCC pillars, each pillar inscribed with the serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and backward bearings and distance from the adjoining pillars etc.,
- (xi) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

- (xii) Any other condition that the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Southern Regional Office, Bangalore may stipulate from time to time for protection, and improvement of flora and fauna in and around the forest land being diverted.
- (xiii) User agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report, indicating status of compliance to the conditions stipulated in the approval, to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry, and
- (xiv) The User Agency and the State Government of the Andhra Pradesh shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad is directed to take further necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
M. SAMUEL,
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Inspector General of Forests,
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110 003

The Additional General Manager (Projects), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited,
Mezzanine Floor, Tirumailai Railway Station, Mylapore, Chennai- 600004.

The Chairman & Managing Director, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited,
1st Floor, B Block, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi -110066.

SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER.